

Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The storage and retrieval unit as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 21, wherein the gripping arms are mounted on opposite ends of a loadbearing rod, wherein said ends are respectively fixed to the first drive element and to the second drive element.

5. (Currently Amended) The storage and retrieval unit as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 21, wherein the lateral movement is transmitted from one gripping arm to the other gripping arm by means of ~~a~~ the tie rod.

Claims 6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The storage and retrieval unit as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 21, wherein each of the gripping arms ~~in each case have~~ has a gripping finger at a free end.

9. (Currently Amended) The storage and retrieval unit as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 21, wherein the gripping

means have at least one rod which is positioned such that the rod ~~pushes~~ engages the container as the container is deposited.

10. (Currently Amended) The storage and retrieval unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rod is ~~a~~ the tie rod which transmits ~~a~~ the lateral movement.

Claims 11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The storage and retrieval unit as claimed in ~~claim 14~~ claim 21, wherein two gripping means are provided, which are each actuated by a guide rail.

Claims 16-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A storage and retrieval unit for storing and removing from store containers or pallets belonging to a rack, comprising:

a first and a second endless drive element each of which are driven around two wheels arranged at a distance from each other and have an upper run and a lower run;

gripping apparatus comprising a first gripping arm pivotably engaged on the first endless drive element and a second gripping arm pivotably engaged on the second endless drive element;

a tie rod engaged between the first gripping arm and the second gripping arm,

wherein the first gripping arm and the second gripping arm are each carried on a corresponding drive element to a selected position where the first gripping arm and the second gripping arm move toward each other in a lateral movement on the tie rod to grip the container or the pallet; and

wherein the lateral movement is actuated by a guide rail fixed along the longitudinal length of the device between either the two wheels of the first drive element or the two wheels of the second drive element when either an end of the first gripping arm or an end of the second gripping arm is engaged by an end of the guide rail.